

Partnerships: Name of the Game



Alabama Department of Environmental Management
23rd Annual Nonpoint Source Conference
Montgomery, AL
January 24, 2012

Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program

- PFW Program was established in 1987 by a small core group of USFWS biologists and a small budget for on-the-ground wetland restoration projects on private lands.
- Successes and partnerships garnered with private landowners led to a larger, more diversified habitat restoration program assisting thousands of private landowners throughout the U.S.
- On October 3, 2006, the PFW Program celebrated its 20th anniversary and on that day Congress unanimously approved and the President signed the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Act (16 USC 3771).
 - *The purpose of this Act is to provide for the restoration, enhancement, and management of fish and wildlife habitats on private land through the Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, a program that works with private landowners to conduct cost-effective habitat projects for the benefit of fish and wildlife resources in the United States.*

Partners for Fish & Wildlife Program

Current PFW Agreements in north Alabama:

- **Paint Rock River Habitat Enhancement Project** with the Alabama Chapter of The Nature Conservancy
 - Focus = stream bank stabilization, riparian buffer establishment, livestock exclusionary fencing, livestock alternative water source
- **Limestone County Streams Riparian Restoration Initiative** with the Limestone County Soil and Water Conservation District
 - Focus = protect and restore riparian corridors and prevention of non-point source pollution on private lands along designated sections of streams (Beaverdam Cr, Piney Cr, Limestone Cr, Round Island Cr, Swan Cr, Elk River, and several tributary streams)
- **Removal of Fish Migration Barriers within the Range of the Slackwater Darter (*Etheostoma boschungii*)** with the Alabama Mountains, Rivers, and Valleys RC&D Council
 - Focus = identification and removal/replacement or modification of existing barriers throughout range of SLW darter (watersheds: Cypress Cr, Limestone Cr, Brier Fk/Flint River, Shoal Cr, Swan Cr)
- **Cypress Creek Watershed Initiative** with the Lauderdale County Soil and Water Conservation District
 - Focus = stream bank stabilization, riparian buffer establishment, livestock exclusionary fencing, livestock alternative water source
- **Brier Fork Watershed Riparian Restoration Initiative** with Madison County Soil and Water Conservation District
 - Focus = protection/ recovery of riparian corridors and reduction and prevention of non-point source pollution on private lands along Brier Fork, a tributary to the Flint River

Examples of Partners Projects:



Livestock Exclusionary Fencing

Alternative Water Source



Stream bank Stabilization





Pre-construction - April 2010



During construction - February 2011



Post-construction - February 2011

Stabilization projects combine the use of riprap, geo-lifts, root wad revetments, and erosion control (coir) blankets.

NWSG Establishment



PFW provides, through a coop agreement with AMRV RC&D Council, a NWSG seed drill for small rental fee to landowners interested in establishing NWSG on their property. The drill is stationed at Wheeler NWR in Decatur, AL.

Over past 10 years, over 2,000 acres of privately owned lands in north Alabama have been planted to NWSG.





Fish Barrier Removal & Replacement



PFW's Landscape-Scale Habitat Improvement Program:

- Funds are for projects that address a priority geographic focus area identified in the PFW Strategic Plan; also funds projects that contribute to restoration or enhancement of habitat for at-risk species. Partners: Buffalo-Duck RC&D, AMRV RC&D, County Gov't, private landowners

Southeast Aquatic Resources Partnership (SARP):

- Funds are targeted for projects that directly restore or enhance aquatic habitat via on-the-ground modification. Partners: ADCNR-WFF, TNC, TVA, TARCOG, AMRV RC&D, NRCS

Endangered Species Act Landowner Incentives Program (LIP):

- Funds are focused on habitat or population protection, enhancement, or restoration and the direct removal of threats in the Middle Tennessee River Basin Focal Area, with the Paint Rock River watershed receiving initial focus. Partners: ADCNR-WFF, TNC, TVA, USCOE, NRCS



PFW's Landscape-Scale Habitat Improvement Program

In 2010, Landscape-Scale PFW funds were awarded to a partnership between several USFWS office's (TN ESFO, AL ESFO, MS ESFO, Wheeler NWR) and the Buffalo-Duck RC&D Council for identifying and removing migration barriers for the SLW darter.

- Spain Loop Road (Wayne Co, TN) culvert project, located in Middle Cypress Cr watershed, downstream from substantial breeding location for darter.**
- In May 2010 flood event, 36" dia. culvert failed/washed out, but existing /adjacent 72" dia. culvert was undisturbed.**
- Partners approached Wayne Co Road Commissioner immediately following flood event with proposal to assist in funding repair of road/stream crossing with a "fish-friendly" culvert.**
- Commissioner agreed and project was completed in Fall 2010**





- Culvert dimensions = 10' x 6' x 4' (per section)
- Total length of box culvert = 56'
- Total costs = \$74,586

Landscape-Scale PFW funds: \$38,848 for culvert materials/delivery

Wayne Co, TN Public Works Dept funds: \$35,738 for design/installation/labor



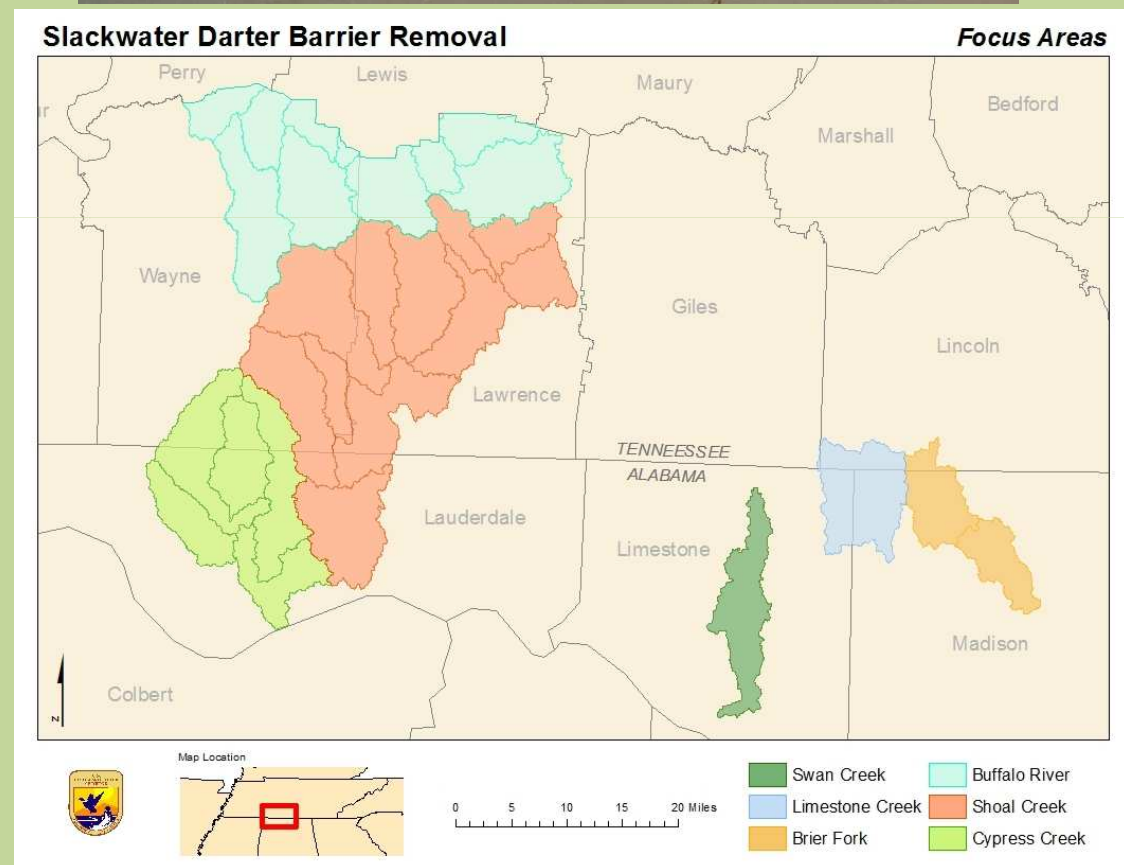
PFW's Landscape-Scale Habitat Improvement Program

Removal of Fish Migration Barriers within the Range of the Slackwater Darter (*Etheostoma boschungii*)

This proposal was funded via Landscape-Scale PFW program, and is a continuation of funding began in FY 2010 to identify barriers to SLW darter migration.

However, FY 2011 funds are targeted at SLW darter habitat throughout its range in north Alabama.

In partnership with USFWS, the AMRV RC&D Council (the recipient of these funds) is charged with contacting interested landowners to develop plans for removal and/or replacement of barriers with structures that are “fish-friendly”.

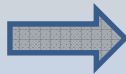


Southeast Aquatic Resource Partnership (SARP)

In 2009, discussions between staff from Wheeler NWR, Warm Springs Fish Technology Center, and The Nature Conservancy began about possibilities of requesting funds from SARP to pay for a fish barrier survey in the Paint Rock River watershed. A proposal was developed and FY 2010 funds were awarded to Warm Springs FTC to conduct/lead survey efforts.



**We utilized protocol
developed by the USFS.**



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest Service

National
Technology and
Development
Program

7700—Transportation Mgmt
November 2005

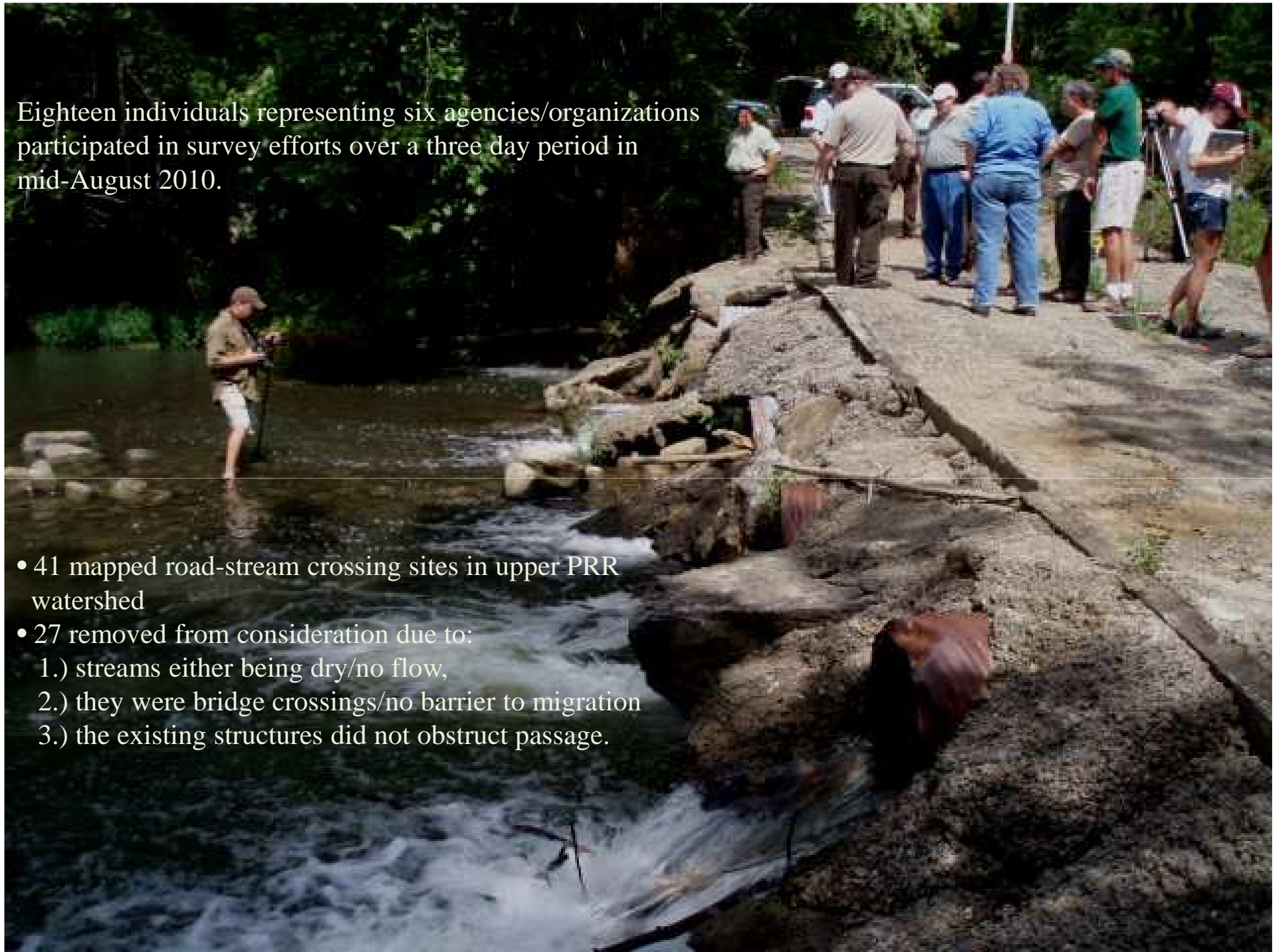


NATIONAL INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE—For Identifying Barriers to Aquatic Organism Passage at Road-Stream Crossings



Eighteen individuals representing six agencies/organizations participated in survey efforts over a three day period in mid-August 2010.

- 41 mapped road-stream crossing sites in upper PRR watershed
- 27 removed from consideration due to:
 - 1.) streams either being dry/no flow,
 - 2.) they were bridge crossings/no barrier to migration
 - 3.) the existing structures did not obstruct passage.



ESA - Landowner Incentives Program (LIP)



Pre-construction - March 2011

Project Description:

- Construction of railcar bridge (89' railcar).
- Demolition/removal of vented, low-water ford from streambed.

Total project costs = \$95,536

\$50,000 of LIP funds dedicated to project.
Landowners to pay remaining balance.

Partnership efforts between various state and federal agencies, TNC, and private landowners resulted in completion of the first phase of this barrier removal project (construction of bridge abutments, approaches, and bridge placement). The low-water ford/barrier will be removed in near future, dependant upon lower stream flow conditions.



Post-construction November 2011

Partnership is the name of the game!



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